BEAST OF EAST

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SENSE SCANS

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To You,
The Immortal

Typesetter
(URGENT)

Beast of East

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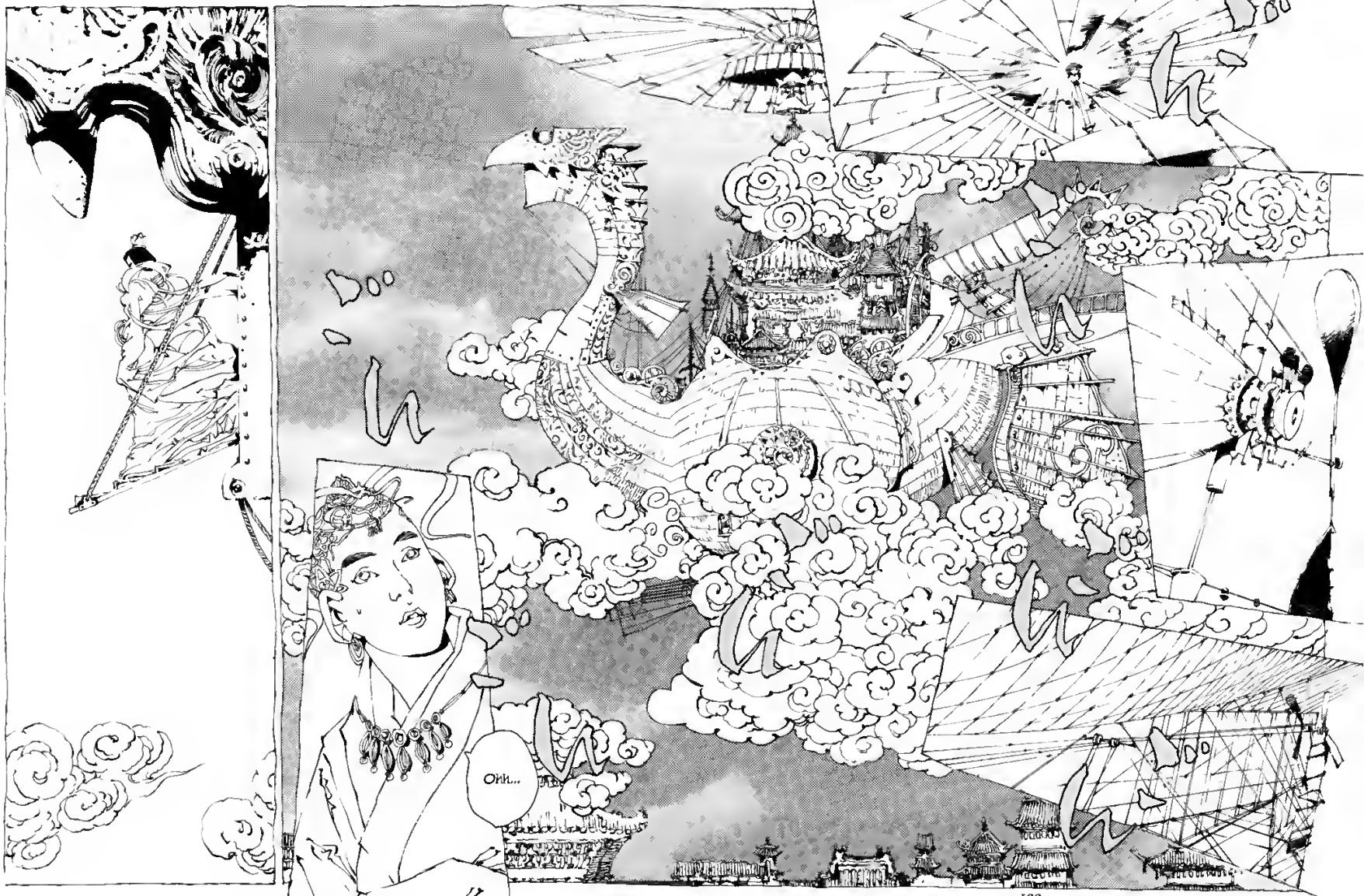
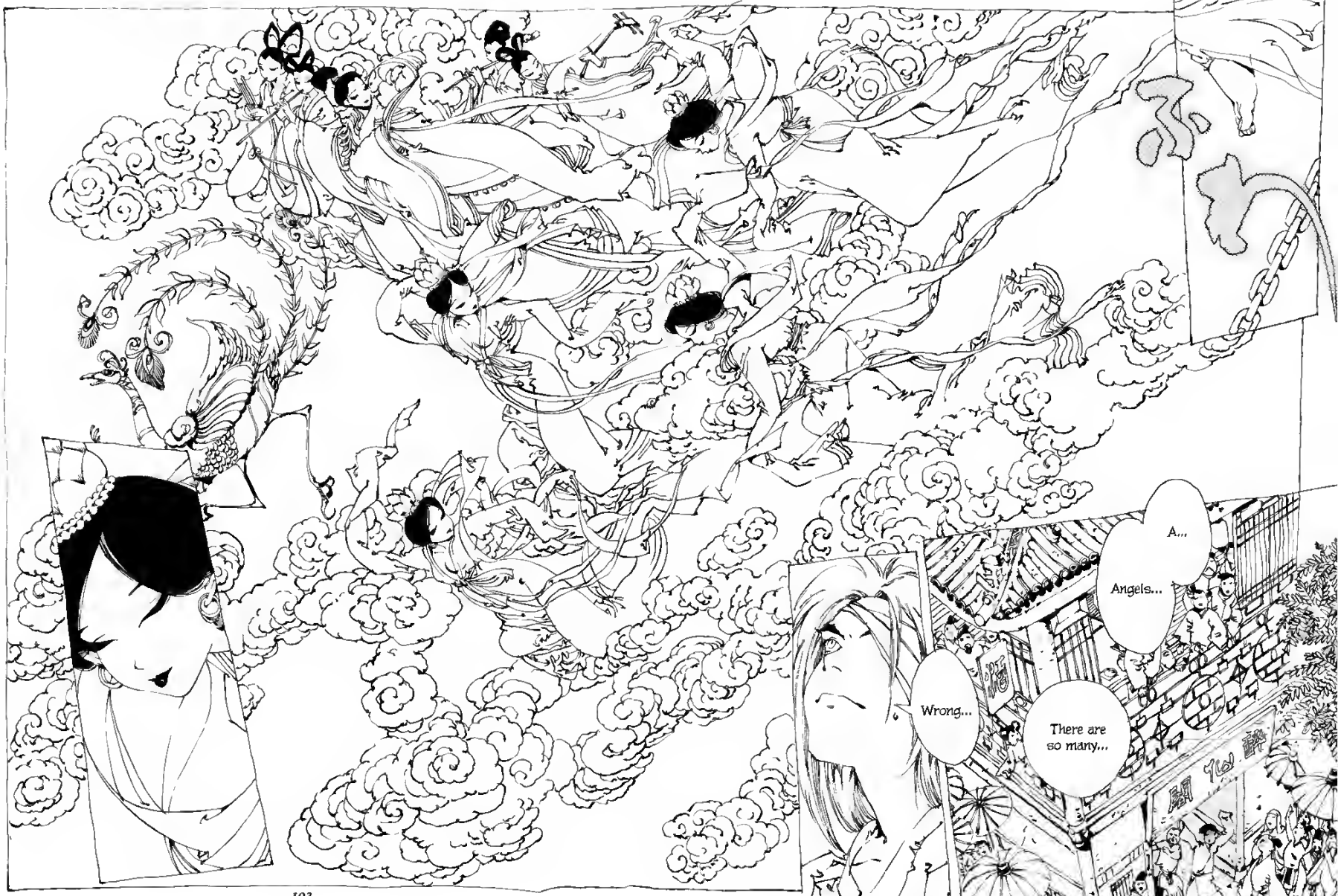
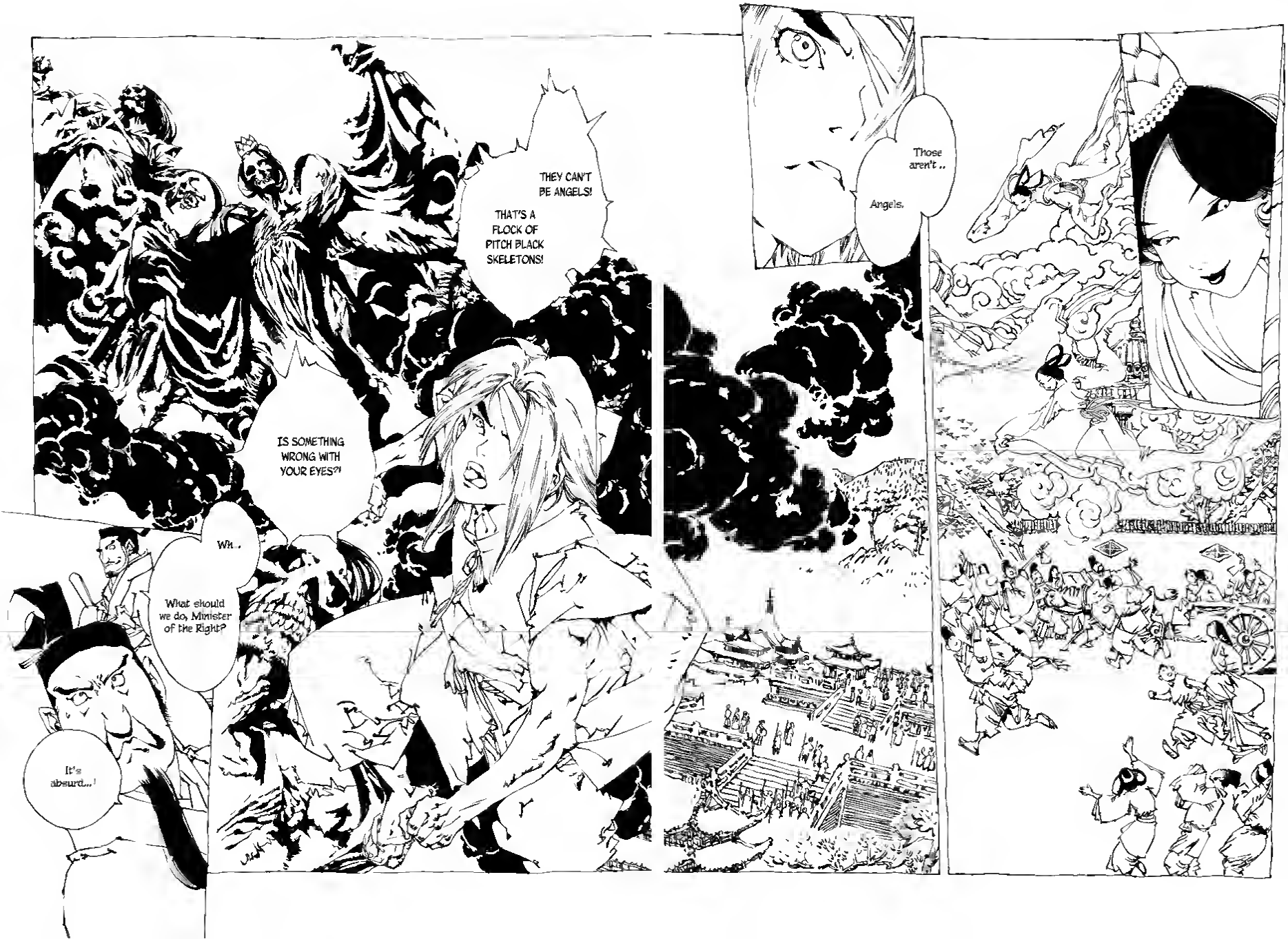
Lord Mitsuyoshi..
Unearthly..
isn't it?
The same as ten days ago.

On this auspicious day, His Highness the Prince will ascend to the heavenly throne.
What a foolish thing to do.
Even so, I stepped forward in order to offer my congratulations.
I knew from the start that I could never recite some paltry poem.
Indeed.
Please observe
No matter how auspicious today may be, there are no heavenly signs.


Они...


A...
Angels...
There are so many...
Wrong...


It's absurd...!
What should we do, Minister of the Right?
Wh..
IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR EYES?!
THEY CAN'T BE ANGELS!
THAT'S A FLOCK OF PITCH BLACK SKELETONS!
Those aren't..
Angels.

Absurd?
Absurd, is it?!
The Minister of the Right claims that the heavenly signs appearing at the Fengshan Ceremony is absurd!
Did you hear that, gentlemen?
Prince!
What is your verdict?
DAMN KID!
BEHAVE YOURSELF!
Arrest him, along with that rambunctious boy.

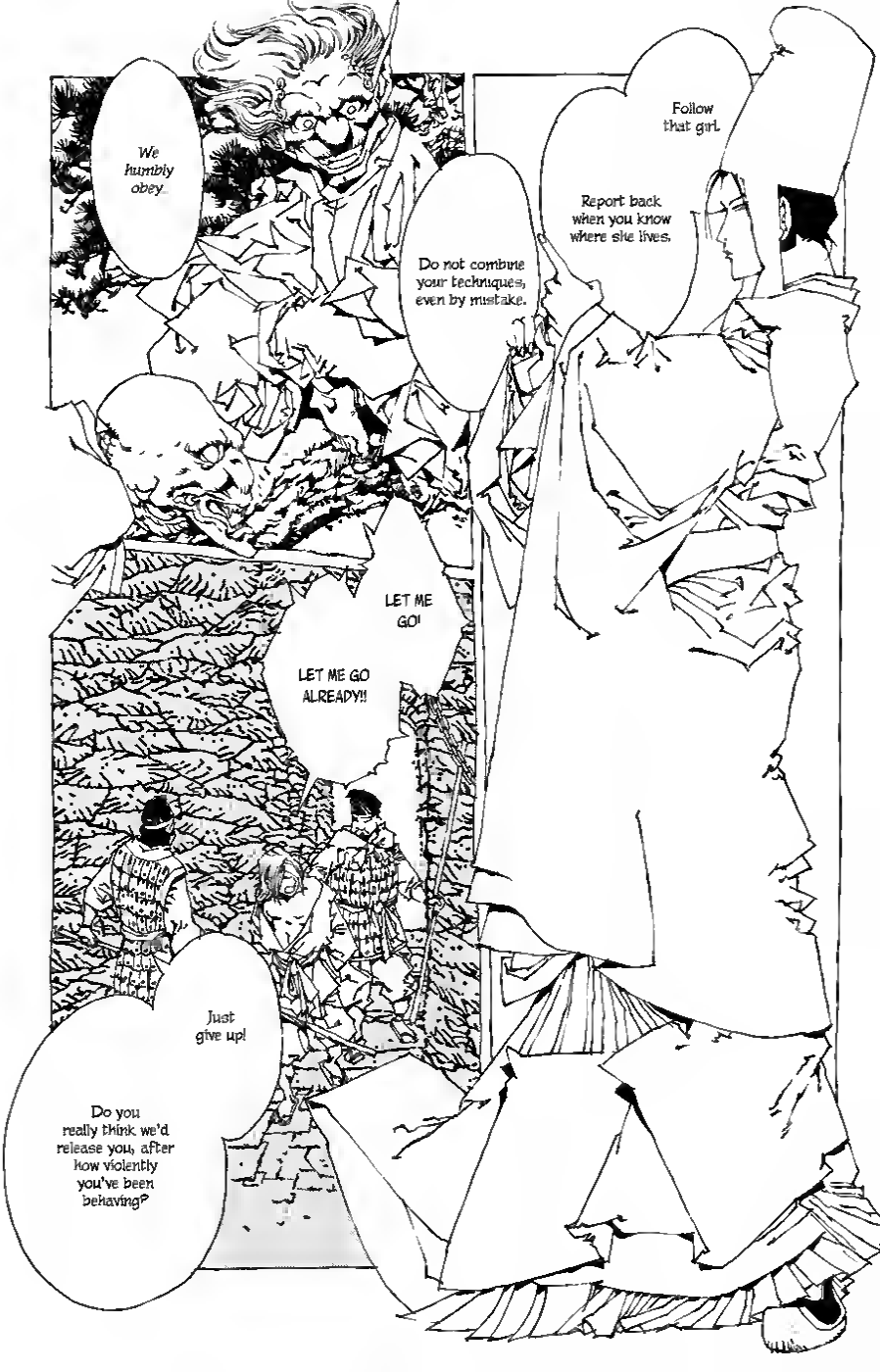
Wha...
They disappeared!

"Mikuzu."
Is that your name?
Yes.
Who knows, I might have need of you again.
Come to me when the opportunity arises.

DON'T MOVE!
Stand aside.
I have nothing against you guys.
BUT I'M TELLING YOU, I HAVE TO CHASE AFTER THEM!
Come along quietly.
You idiot.

Did you see what just happened?
Ah...
Youngster.
The guy from before?
Is he a friend of yours?
Kinda.

Kochin.
Toda.
He's an interesting youngster.
It seems he can see demons, a technique both you and my father had to be taught...
The heavenly signs appeared in the direction of Xin, and vanished in the direction of the Rooster.
We saw an omen of chaos.
We are yours to command.
According to the Twelve Branches and Ten Stems, the 58th year is in Metal, so the sighting of the sword does not appear, and Venus resides with the Supreme Commander.


We humbly obey.
Follow that girl.
Report back when you know where she lives.
Do not combine your techniques, even by mistake.
LET ME GO!
LET ME GO ALREADY!!
Just give up!
Do you really think we'd release you, after how violently you've been behaving?

Um...
There's a new prisoner.

BASTARD!
Well, he's been safely handed over.
This roughneck knocked out five or six officers,
so stay on your guard.
...What am I saying? You're made of clay, you probably don't understand me anyway.
ゴゴゴゴ
That golem...
Every time I see it, I get this weird feeling.
Yeah...
I heard it was made by a necromancer, under orders from the Minister of the Left.
The criminals look far more human to my eyes.

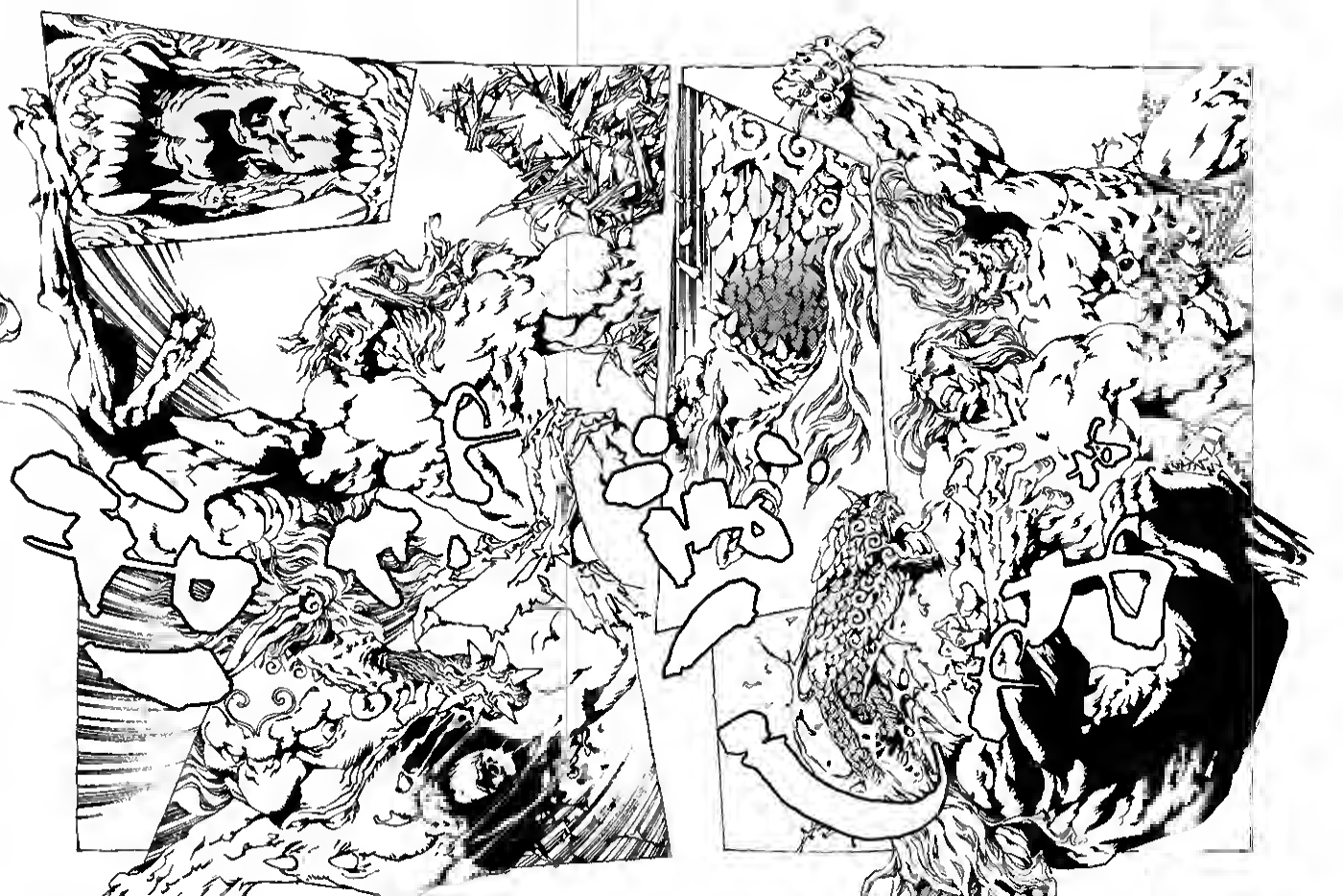
LEMME OUT, YOU SON OF A BITCH!!
IT'LL BE A DISASTER IF WE LET HER CONTROL THE WHOLE COUNTRY THROUGH DECEPTION!
NO, PLEASE LET ME OUT!
THOSE HEAVENLY SIGNS WERE FAKE, THE WORK OF A DEMON!
We cannot escape.
It's useless.

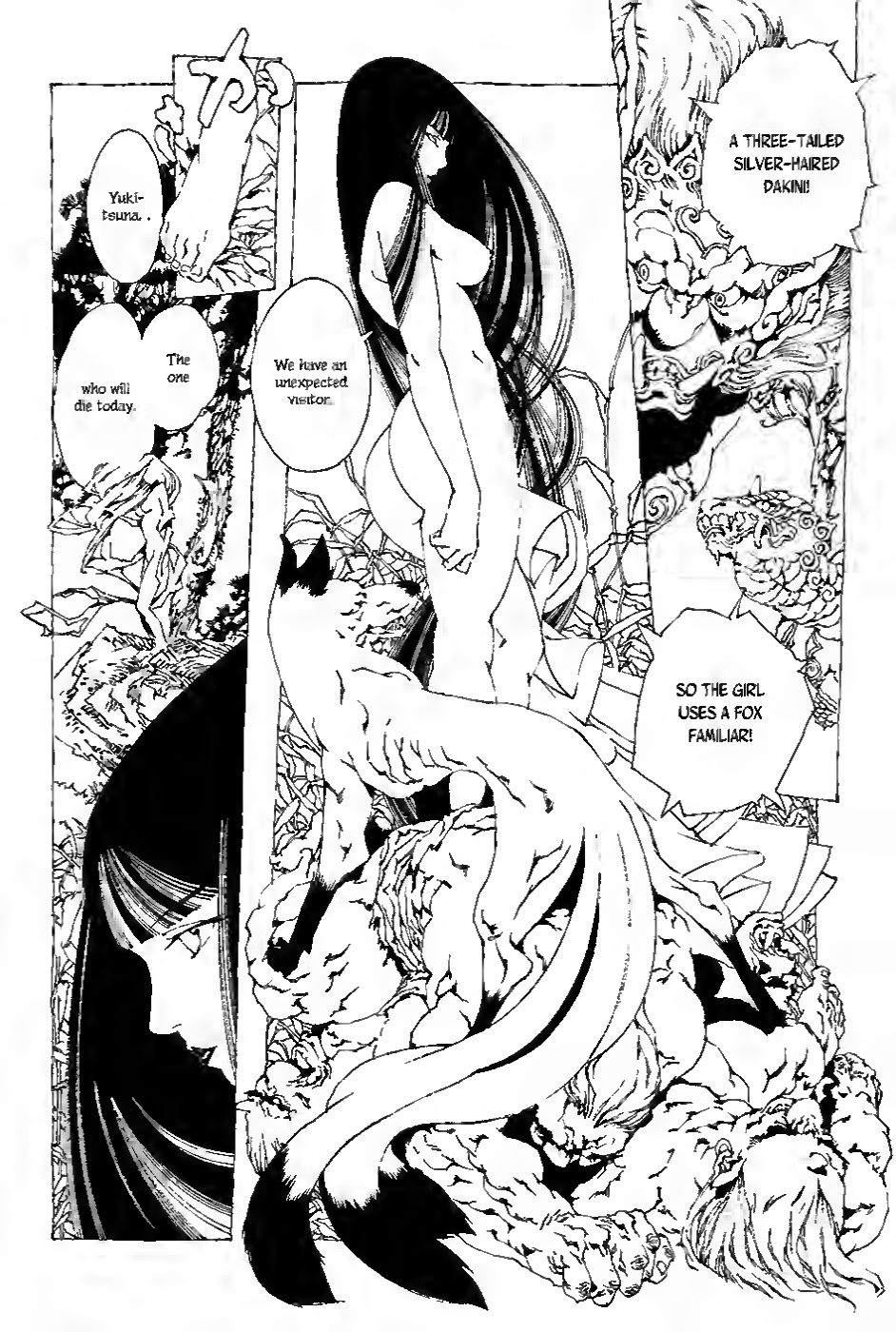
...Have you not noticed?
This is Tonbeno.
I heard that the girl's dwelling place was in Yamashina, but...
You're right.
I thought I would ask Seimei for the names of those who will die today
What?
Strange.

Do not combine your techniques.
Wasn't that your master's order?
Hmph...

Ogres...
They were attracted here by the smell of human flesh.
What should we do?
If the girl dies, we'll never find out where she lives.
Guess it can't be helped.

ドカ！
ドゴ！
ドゴ！
ドゴ！

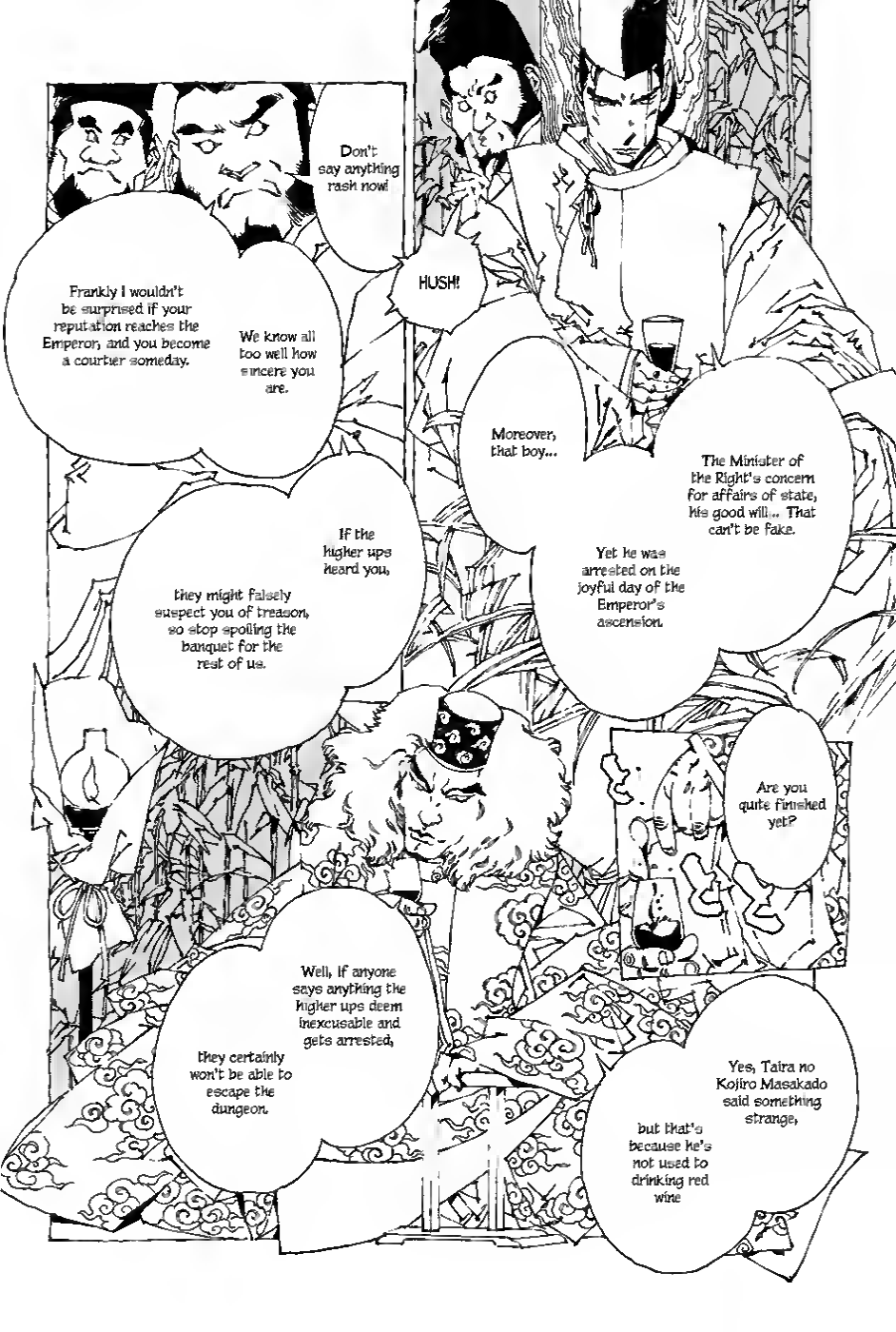



A THREE-TAILED SILVER-HAIRED DAKINI!
We have an unexpected visitor.
Yuki-tsuna. .
The one who will die today.
SO THE GIRL USES A FOX FAMILIAR!

Banshee,
tell me again...
The name of he who will die today.
Sakabe no Yukitsuna.
Then let's go,
call on that hovel in Yamashina
and on Sakabe no Shoji Yukitsuna, Keeper of the Imperial Archives, who fell to ruin because he shot at a fox and missed.
The words Mikuzu carelessly spoke, concealed beneath a smile, had already robbed her father of his life
How fearful.
Chanting with percussion. In front of the first pine tree, transfixed by devotion

Could it be true? Even the delicate and graceful Mikuzu fell victim to a demon's spell.
Before long the two shiki returned and made such remarks. Abe no Seimei furrowed his brow
A demonic familiar...
A fox spirit.
At least, those were the words he murmured.
Yukitsuna incurred the wrath of a fox by pointing an arrow at it, but surely she had no intention of harming her beloved father
Oh dear, that is vexing!
Well now, today's the day all our troubles go away!
why not compose a piece on the miraculous and beautiful coming of the angels?
Hey Priest, since you make a living telling half-truths and singing amusing tales,
Now, now, don't worry about it.

I wonder if it could have been the bird of paradise, Kalavinka?
dancing with the angels amidst a flurry of flower petals
I saw a bird with many-coloured wings
Ah, I get chills just thinking about it!
The clouds in the sky drew back and a ship appeared.
Suddenly, a perfumed breeze began to blow.
In your broken voice, it would be an act of sacrilege!
No matter how much you practised, if you sang about such a thing
After seeing that, the famous beauties of the capital look vulgar by comparison.
That's not it.
No.
That's not it, but...
Hm?
What's wrong, Lord Kojiro?
Perhaps I've had enough.
Drunk too many glasses of wine?


Don't say anything rash now!
HUSH!
Frankly I wouldn't be surprised if your reputation reaches the Emperor, and you become a courtier someday.
We know all too well how sincere you are.
Moreover, that boy...
The Minister of the Right's concern for affairs of state, his good will... That can't be fake.
Yet he was arrested on the joyful day of the Emperor's ascension.
If the higher ups heard you,
they might falsely suspect you of treason, so stop spoiling the banquet for the rest of us.
Are you quite finished yet?
Well, if anyone says anything the higher ups deem inexcusable and gets arrested,
they certainly won't be able to escape the dungeon.
Yes, Taira no Kojiro Masakado said something strange,
but that's because he's not used to drinking red wine

It's jailer is the golem that I, Ashiya Doman, strived to create
Golems ..
They are heartless, monstrous things.
With that thing standing guard, there's no way we can leave.
You know a lot, huh?
I've been here three years now.
You...
Aren't from here, right? What'd you do?
I was part of a show on the avenue
Sword dances, sleight of hand, etc.
The other members were also captured, but we were locked in different cells.
Nothing
They locked you up for doing nothing?

So they arrested you for putting on a show?
Monsters were appearing in the city
Bandits and arsonists were active too.
That's awful...
After that, foreigners like us were eyed with suspicion.
Boss,
Where to this evening?
all present and correct.

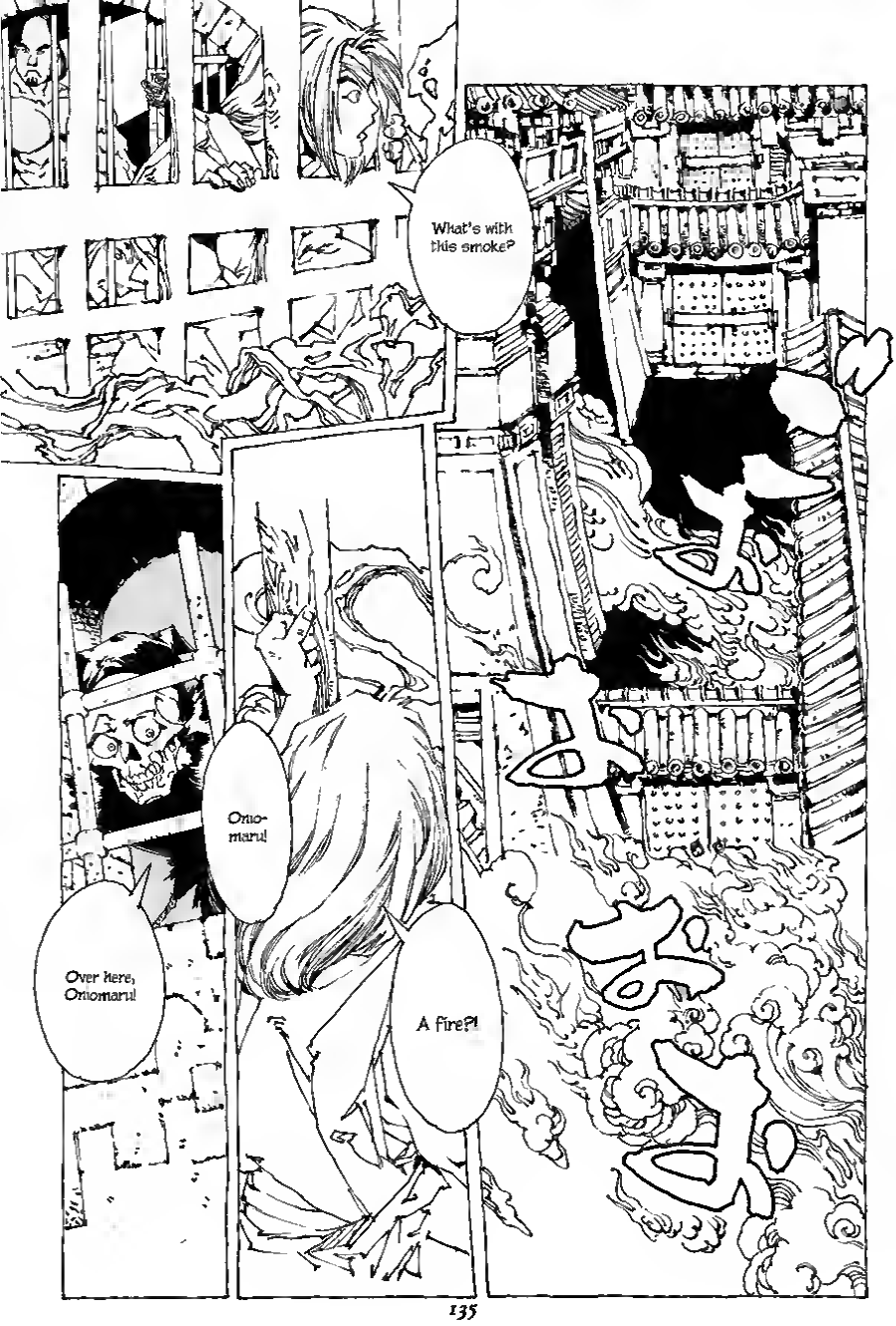
Break open the jail.
Sir?
Blow smoke at the Chief of Police.
We must introduce ourselves to the new Emperor.
They're ready to make a move.
Hmph.
What should I do?

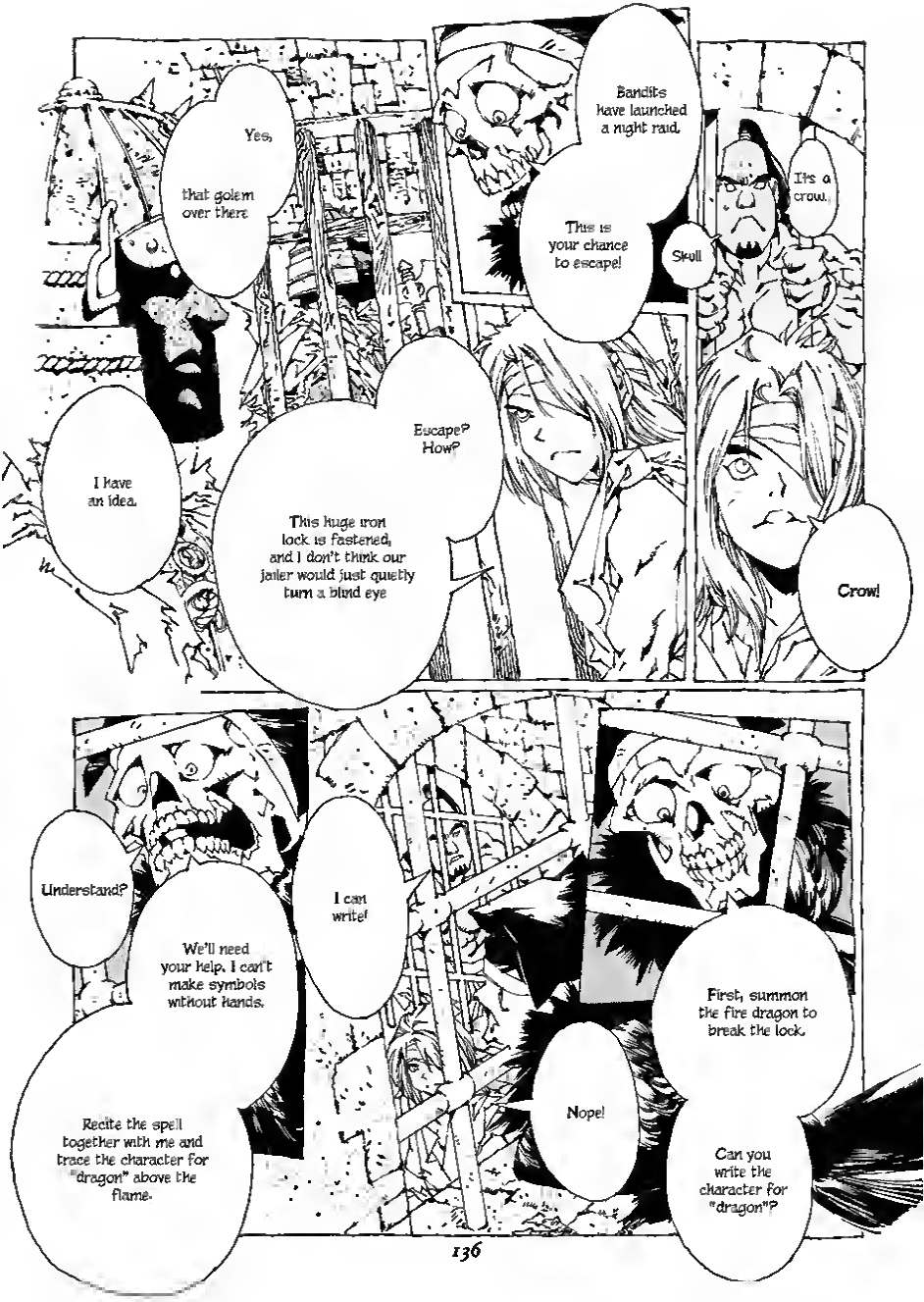
How odd.
A storm brewing in this season?
Oh,
the wind is really picking up.
Dammit! The lantern's gone out.
A torch, quick.
Light the lantern!
Yeah.
?
GHOST LIGHTS?!

Keep quiet.
わだつ
What you see before you is
what the townsfolk call the Night Parade of 100 Demons.
Fortunately, you spotted us in the dark from a distance and survived by holding your breath.
If anybody asks, that's what you should tell them.
Now, everyone
A fine wind is blowing.
The weather tonight is in our favour, and even the ghost lights dance along.
I hope those court officials are watching.
Third Act The shadows of demons, dancing madly amidst the flames

!
Oh?
Good heavens,
I thought I hadn't drunk that much, and yet...
Can you smell smoke? Or am I imagining it?
In the direction of the jail-house?!
TAKE UP YOUR SWORDS!
IT'S A NIGHT RAID!

SET THE FIRE!
BREAK THE LOCKS!
PARDON THEM! PARDON!
TONIGHT THE IMPERIAL COURT DOES NOTHING BUT CELEBRATE, AND IGNORE THEIR PLIGHT!
INSIDE ARE MANY PEOPLE IMPRISONED WITHOUT SENTENCE!


What's with this smoke?
Omomaru!
Over here, Omomaru!
A fire?!


Bandits have launched a night raid.
It's a crow.
This is your chance to escape!
Skull
Yes, that golem over there
Escape? How?
I have an idea.
This huge iron lock is fastened, and I don't think our jailer would just quietly turn a blind eye
Crow!
Understand?
I can write!
We'll need your help. I can't make symbols without hands.
First, summon the fire dragon to break the lock.
Nope!
Recite the spell together with me and trace the character for "dragon" above the flame.
Can you write the character for "dragon"?

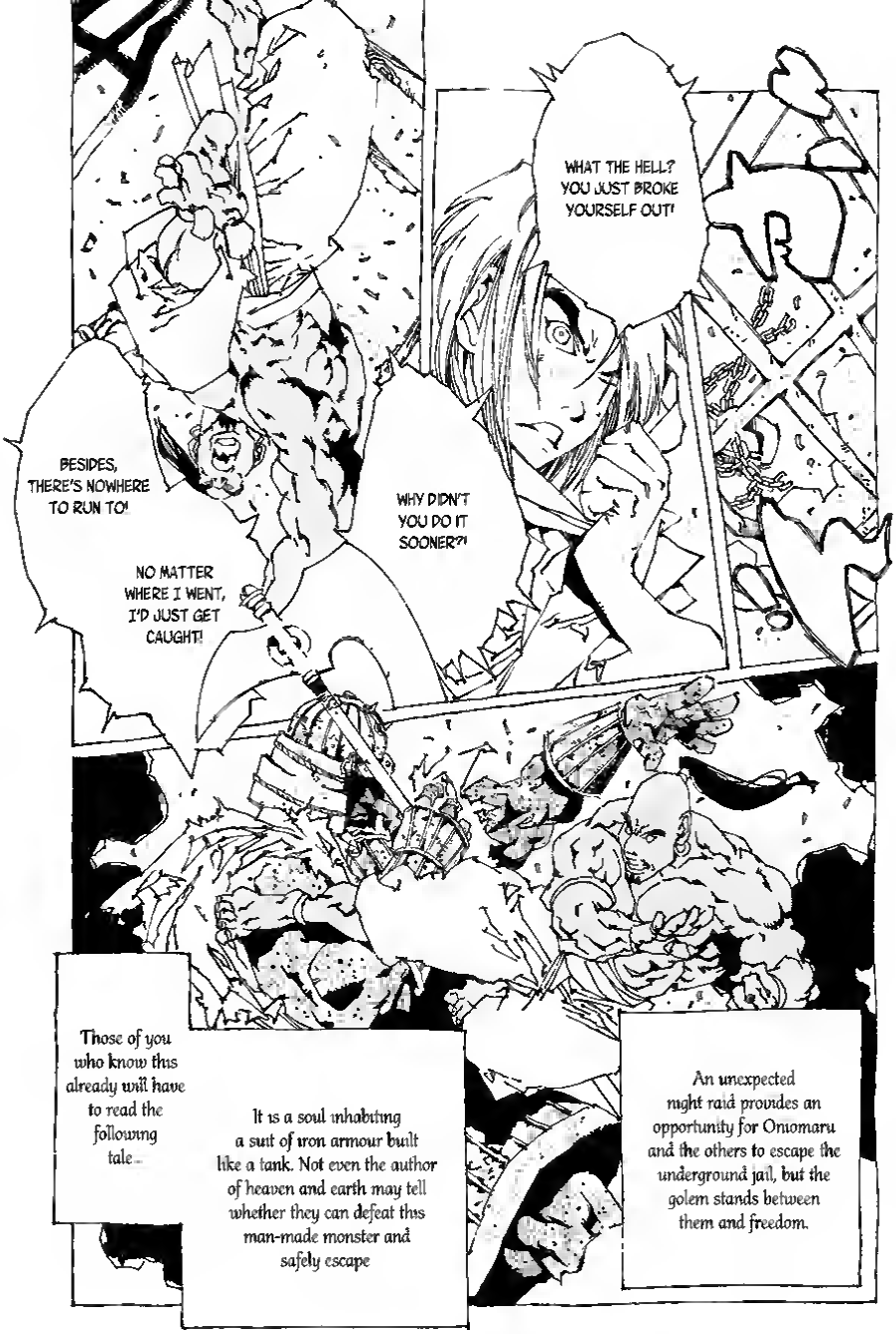
I humbly ask that you accompany me.
Minister of the Right,
Lord Sugawara no Michizane, I presume?
Who are you?
First, consider the demons that riot in the city.

No need to explain.
In the imperial court of today, the bureaucracy is full of tigers, and prison is treated as a gift,
Why should I blindly follow the words of a bandit who broke into my cell?
but I am not one to disregard our laws.
Even though you disguised yourselves as bandits,
The heavenly signs were a fact. It's also a fact that I was falsely accused.
this will not prevent strife between the noble families.
Your resolve...
It's very touching.
Forgive me!

Won't you tell me your name?
It would be a shame to simply cut you down.
Oh?
This is rare swordsmanship
You're no ordinary thief
I'm Fujiwara no Sumitomo
Remember it as long as you live.

Wood feeds Fire.
Fire melts Metal.
Flames scorch evil unto heaven.
Transform, and become a red dragon.
Second element, purifying fire, heed the prayer of one who perceives the trigram talismans.
Fire and Metal, attack as one!
BANG !!

I did it!


WHAT THE HELL? YOU JUST BROKE YOURSELF OUT!
WHY DIDN'T YOU DO IT SOONER?!
BESIDES, THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN TO!
NO MATTER WHERE I WENT, I'D JUST GET CAUGHT!
Those of you who know this already will have to read the following tale...
It is a soul inhabiting a suit of iron armour built like a tank. Not even the author of heaven and earth may tell whether they can defeat this man-made monster and safely escape
An unexpected night raid provides an opportunity for Oniomaru and the others to escape the underground jail, but the golem stands between them and freedom.

TRANSLATION NOTES

Twelve Branches and Ten Stems – The earthly branches and celestial stems together make up the Chinese sexagenary cycle, a method of reckoning time. To say the heavenly signs were in **Xin** (eighth celestial stem) and the **Rooster** (tenth earthly branch) means they appeared in the western sky between 5–7pm. The **Supreme Commander** is one of eight gods who guard the compass points of the Japanese calendar. He presides in the west, where the planet Venus sets.

Golem – A being originally from Jewish folklore, usually made of clay, earth, or stone, and animated by means of magic to do their master's bidding.

Dakini – Minor female deities with strong ties to foxes in Japanese Buddhism.

Chanting with Percussion, etc. – Three pine trees, of varying sizes, are used as stage markers by the actors in Noh theatre. "Transfixed by Devotion" may have been the name of a large bell used as a prop in the famous play *Dojoji*.

Kalavinka – A mythical bird that sings scripture in the Buddhist paradise.

Night Parade of 100 Demons – A popular concept of Japanese folklore, this is a yearly nighttime procession of one hundred kinds of demon through the streets in summer. Holding your breath supposedly made one invisible to demons.